CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

receiving a request to play an audio file;

identifying a preferred language for displaying lyrics associated with the audio file;

identifying lyric data associated with the audio file and associated with the preferred language; and

playing the audio file and displaying the identified lyric data.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the identified lyric data is contained in the audio file.

3. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the identified lyric data is stored separately from the audio file.

4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the lyric data includes a plurality of lyric segments, and wherein each of the plurality of lyric segments is associated with a particular time period of the audio file.

5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the lyric data includes a plurality of lyric segments and the audio file contains a plurality of time codes, wherein each of the plurality of time codes corresponds to a particular lyric segment.

6. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein a particular lyric segment is displayed during playback of the audio file based on a current time code.

7. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein identifying a preferred language includes identifying a preferred language and a preferred sublanguage.

8. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

9. A method comprising:

receiving a request to play an audio file;

identifying a plurality of lyric segments associated with the audio file, wherein each lyric segment has an associated time code, and wherein each time code identifies a time during playback of the audio file that a corresponding lyric segment is displayed; and

playing the audio file and displaying the appropriate lyric segments as the audio file plays.

10. A method as recited in claim 9 wherein playing the audio file and displaying the appropriate lyric segments includes:

playing the audio file;

identifying a time code associated with a current playback location in the audio file;

identifying a lyric segment associated with the identified time code; and

displaying the lyric segment until a subsequent time code is reached.

11. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein a new lyric segment associated with the subsequent time code is displayed when the subsequent time code is reached.

12. A method as recited in claim 9 further comprising:

receiving a request to jump to a different part of the audio file;

identifying a lyric segment associated with the different part of the audio file; and

playing the audio file from the different part of the audio file and displaying the lyric segment.

13. A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the time codes and the lyric segments are stored in the audio file.

14. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 9.

15. A method comprising:

selecting an audio file to edit;

identifying lyric segments associated with the audio file;

assigning a time code to each lyric segment, wherein each time code identifies a temporal location within the audio file; and

saving the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments.

16. A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising displaying the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments.

17. A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising editing one or more time codes.

18. A method as recited in claim 15 wherein saving the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments includes storing the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments in the audio file.

19. A method as recited in claim 15 wherein saving the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments includes storing the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments in a file separate from the audio file.

20. A method as recited in claim 15 wherein saving the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments includes caching the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments if the audio file is currently in use.

21. A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising associating a language with the lyric segments.

22. A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising:

associating a language with the lyric segments; and

associating a sublanguage with the lyric segments.

23. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 15.

24. A method comprising:

selecting an audio file to edit;

identifying static lyrics associated with the audio file;

separating the static lyrics into a plurality of lyric segments;

assigning a time code to each of the plurality of lyric segments, wherein each time code identifies a temporal location within the audio file; and

saving the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments.

25. A method as recited in claim 24 wherein the static lyrics include all lyrics associated with the audio file.

26. A method as recited in claim 24 wherein the plurality of lyric segments are approximately equal in duration.

27. A method as recited in claim 24 further comprising editing one or more time codes.

28. A method as recited in claim 24 further comprising displaying the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments.

29. A method as recited in claim 24 wherein saving the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments includes storing the time codes and the corresponding lyric segments in the audio file.

30. A method as recited in claim 24 further comprising associating a language with the lyric segments.

31. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 24.

32. A method comprising:

receiving a request to play an audio file;

identifying a preferred language for displaying lyrics;

identifying an alternate language for displaying lyrics;

playing the audio file and displaying associated lyric data in the preferred language if lyric data is available in the preferred language; and

playing the audio file and displaying associated lyric data in the alternate language if lyric data is not available in the preferred language.

33. A method as recited in claim 32 further comprising playing the audio file and displaying associated lyric data in English if lyric data is not available in the preferred language or the alternate language.

34. A method as recited in claim 32 wherein the lyric data is stored in the audio file.

35. A method as recited in claim 32 further comprising:

while playing the audio file, receiving a request to change the language of the lyrics being displayed; and

displaying associated lyric data in the requested language.

36. A method as recited in claim 32 wherein playing the audio file and displaying associated lyric data includes:

playing the audio file;

determining a time code associated with a current playback location in the audio file;

identifying a lyric segment associated with the time code; and

displaying the lyric segment until a different time code is reached.

37. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 32.

38. An apparatus comprising:

an audio player to play an audio file; and

a language selection module to identify a preferred language for displaying lyrics; and

a lyric display module coupled to the audio player and the language selection module, the lyric display module to identify lyric data associated with the audio file and the preferred language, wherein the lyric display module displays the identified lyric data synchronously with playing of the audio file.

39. An apparatus as recited in claim 38 wherein the lyric display module displays different lyric segments based on a portion of the audio file being played by the audio player.

40. An apparatus as recited in claim 38 wherein the lyric data is stored in the audio file.

41. An apparatus as recited in claim 38 wherein the preferred language is stored separately from the audio file.

42. An apparatus as recited in claim 38 further comprising a synchronized lyric editor to edit lyric data associated with audio files.

43. An apparatus comprising:

means for identifying an audio file to play;

means for identifying a plurality of lyric segments associated with the audio file, wherein each lyric segment has an associated time code, and wherein the time codes identify periods of time during playback of the audio file; and

means for playing the audio file and displaying a lyric segment that corresponds to the current time code.

44. An apparatus as recited in claim 43 further comprising means for identifying a preferred language for displaying lyrics, wherein the means for identifying a plurality of lyric segments identifies a plurality of lyric segments in the preferred language.

45. An apparatus as recited in claim 43 wherein the lyric segments are stored in the audio file.

46. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

receive a request to play an audio file;

identify a preferred language in which to display lyrics associated with the audio file;

identify a plurality of lyric segments associated with the audio file, wherein each lyric segment is associated with the preferred language and each lyric segment has an associated time code, and wherein each time code identifies a time

during playback of the audio file that a corresponding lyric segment is displayed; and

play the audio file and display the appropriate lyric segments as the audio file is played.

47. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 46 wherein the one or more processors further identify an alternate language if lyric segments are not available in the preferred language.

48. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 46 wherein the time code data is stored in the audio file.